

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,588,098 to Chen ("Chen"); and rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,588,097 to Ono et al. ("Ono") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,714 to Lines et al. ("Lines").

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 17, canceled claims 6, 8, 14, 16, 18, and 19, and added new claim 20. Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20 are now pending in this application.

The rejection of canceled claims 6, 8, 14, 16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on the ground that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established. A *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established for at least the reason that Ono and Lines, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a three-dimensional object manipulating apparatus including "axis determination means for determining an axis of rotation of the three-dimensional object as a first line through a center of the display screen perpendicular to a second line from the detected coordinate through the center of the display screen," as recited in amended claim 1.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants declines to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action.

Ono teaches “a line segment OP1 connecting the point P1 that has already been inputted and the center O of the imaginary spherical surface 22 is regarded as the rotation axis” (col. 5, lines 30-32), wherein P1 is a point on the spherical surface to which a user has moved from an initial input point P0 (see col. 3, lines 45-55). Ono thus teaches that the rotation axis is a line from the center of the imaginary spherical surface to a second point input by a user P1. Ono does not teach or suggest that the rotation axis is perpendicular to a “line from the detected coordinate through the center of the display screen,” as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). Ono thus fails to teach or suggest a three-dimensional object manipulating apparatus including “determining an axis of rotation of the three-dimensional object as a first line through a center of the display screen perpendicular to a second line from the detected coordinate through the center of the display screen,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Lines fails to cure the deficiencies of Ono. Lines teaches “[a]ll rotations occur about the center of this sphere, which is the center of the model and also taken to be the origin of the coordinate system for simplicity.” Lines, col. 4, lines 62-65 (emphasis added). Lines thus teaches that the axis of rotation goes through the origin of the coordinate system. Lines, however, provides no teaching or suggestion of a three-dimensional object manipulating apparatus including “determining an axis of rotation of the three-dimensional object as a first line through a center of the display screen perpendicular to a second line from the detected coordinate through the center of the display screen,” as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least the reason that Ono and Lines, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1, a *prima facie* case of

obviousness cannot be established. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 4, 9, 12, and 17, although of different scope than claim 1, distinguish over Ono and Lines for at least the reasons presented above for claim 1. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 9, 12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

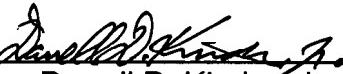
In view of the foregoing remarks and proposed amendments, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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